

Patents
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

JAMES H. WANG, ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/753,077

Filed: March 12, 2001

For: **WATER-RESPONSIVE BIODEGRADABLE
POLYMER COMPOSITION AND METHOD
OF MAKING SAME**



Art Unit: 1711

Examiner: Jeffrey Mullis

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RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 26, 2001, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks.

REMARKS

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Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-33 are the subject of an election requirement. In response to this requirement, applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I which comprises Claims 1-20, 32 and 33 directed to a polymer blend. Applicants are further required to elect a single polar monomer from Claims 8 or 9; a single

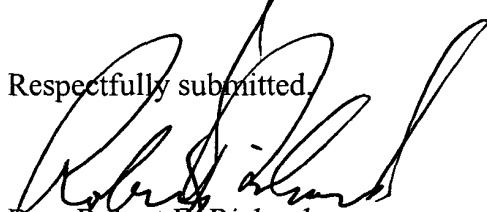
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC, 20231, on March 26, 2002.

Robert E. Richards
Robert E. Richards - Reg. No. 29,105

biodegradable polymer from Claim 14 and a single water-soluble polymer from Claim 13. Applicants are also required to elect grafted water-soluble polymers or ungrafted water-soluble polymers. In response to this requirement, applicants hereby elect poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylate as the polar monomer; poly(hydroxy alkanates) as the biodegradable polymer; and polyvinyl alcohol as the water-soluble polymer. Applicants also elect grafted water-soluble polymers. The Office Action further requires applicants to elect a single disclosed species and to identify those claims readable thereon. In response to the requirement, applicants hereby elect poly(β -hydroxybutyrate-co- β -hydroxyvalerate) grafted with polyethylene glycol methacrylate and blended with polyvinyl alcohol grafted with polyethylene glycol methacrylate. Applicant submits that the claims that are readable thereon are Claims 1-9, 11-20, and 32.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing remarks. Such action is courteously solicited. Applicants further request that the Examiner call the undersigned counsel if allowance of the claims can be facilitated by examiner's amendment, telephone interview or otherwise.

Respectfully submitted,


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